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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 408
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION urging the State Board of Education to allow the JROTC program to remain as an option for the high school physical education requirement.

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education previously agreed to allow high schools the option of offering JROTC as a substitute for the Lifetime Wellness/PE class for the required physical education credit; and

WHEREAS, recently, the State Board of Education passed a proposal to discontinue its waiver for JROTC program as a course substitute for the Lifetime Wellness course that is mandatory for graduation from a Tennessee high school; and

WHEREAS, high school administrators and principals from all over the state have highly endorsed allowing the JROTC program to remain as an option for the physical education requirement; and

WHEREAS, after eight years of students participating in the required gym classes, the JROTC program provides high school freshmen with an opportunity to try something different; and

WHEREAS, the JROTC course is designed to teach all of the important aspects of the Lifetime Wellness course, in addition to requiring at least as much physical activity as a regular gym class; and

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WHEREAS, physically challenged and special education students are actively encouraged to participate in such JROTC activities as drill and air rifle teams, color guard and ranger teams; and

WHEREAS, many troubled teens with discipline problems have remained in school principally because of the positive behavior modifications and the structural regimen that the JROTC program has provided; and

WHEREAS, there are no classes that teach citizenship, discipline, patriotism and leadership as well as the JROTC program does collectively; and

WHEREAS, this invaluable program also promotes self esteem and valuable teamwork skills; and

WHEREAS, because of the demanding required course load in the high school curriculum, it would be difficult for freshmen to fit JROTC into their schedules as an elective; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Army requires a minimum of 100 cadets in each squadron; therefore, this invaluable program would be in serious danger of extinction, if the Board discontinues JROTC as a physical education credit option; and

WHEREAS, as elected representatives of this great state, we urge the State Board of Education to continue to allow the students of our state the option of completing the JROTC program for their physical education credit requirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby urge the Tennessee State Board of Education to continue the waiver for the JROTC program as a substitute course for the physical education credit requirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be transmitted to the State Board of Education.

